

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

June 30, 2006

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

While the people of Louisiana are pleased that the White House has agreed to extend the 100% federal payment of debris cleanup in five southeastern parishes hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina, we are extremely disappointed that this extension does not apply to Southwest Louisiana. This area was hit hard by Hurricane Rita, and its people rightfully deserve this continued assistance as well.

Local communities in this part of the state need help to handle this massive burden, just like their neighbors in the southeastern parishes do. Once again, parishes devastated by Rita have been neglected. Such an unfair double standard must end, not only on this issue, but on many other hurricane recovery issues as well.

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The local share for debris cleanup in the State will be expensive. Nine parishes in the State of Louisiana with debris to be removed were excluded from the extension. Considering the numerous problems related to the administration of FEMA assistance, there is a valid duty on the part of the federal government to finish the cleanup job.

We would urge you to exercise your authority to reconsider this extension decision as it applies to Southwestern Louisiana parishes affected by Hurricane Rita, as well as to Jefferson, St. Charles, and other parishes, which have a substantial continued need for full federal support as they persevere in removing debris and rebuilding their communities.

Your assistance in this effort would be greatly appreciated by the people of Louisiana, and I thank you for considering this plea.

Sincerely,



Mary Landrieu  
United States Senator

Cc: David Paulison, FEMA  
Don Powell, Office of the Gulf Coast Recovery Coordinator  
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury  
Cameron Parish Police Jury  
Mayor Randy Roach, City of Lake Charles  
President Aaron Broussard, Jefferson Parish

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